(b) Namber of applications pending:—

Public Sector Banks:	NIL
Private Sector Banks:	As on April, 1998, 40 applications were pending. State-wise details are < js under:—

State	No. of pending applications
Andhra Pradesh	4
Bihar	1
Gujrat	2
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	1
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	6
Madhya Pradesh	3
Orissa	2
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
New Delhi (UT)	1
West Bengal	2
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One applicant has not indicated the Centre at which at proposes to locate the Head Quarters of the Bank.

As regard SCBs^CCBs, no application is pending.

Rural Wealth Tax

4486. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a rural wealth tax;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such attempt was made earlier to impose tax on wealthy rural people; and

(d) if so, with what results and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation

4487. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant the status of a public finance institution to infrastructure Development Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1998-99 has, intcr-alia, announced that in order to put Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IDFC) on par with other all India public Financial Institutions in the matter of fiscal incentives and fund rasing benefits extended to these institutions, it is proposed to make necessary amendments to the Companies Act.

Loans to farmers

4488. SHRl PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount provided as loans by banks to the farmers of various States during the preceding three years till now. State-wise particularly in Assam;

(b) the percentage of loans provided to the farmers of the State during the